

I am sending this message because it is correct, even though I could express an even stronger position in the interests of this republic and its citizens, among whom I consider myself a true patriot.

Both of the dominante political parties have failed to treat each of the important issues carefully, adequately and accurately. But the broadcasting and news media are falling even farther short of their true roles as the eyes and ears of the public, not the organs of political parties or their leaders.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.